

Message Text

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E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI COMPLAINT ABOUT WEAPONS DELIVERY

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON ON OCTOBER 14 HE TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO ISRAEL. FOR REASONS WHICH HE COULD NOT FATHOM, THERE HAD BEEN A SLOWDOWN, AND ITEMS WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED HIM PERSONALLY A YEAR AND HALF AGO HAD NOT YET BEEN DELIVERED. ALLON WAS SLATED TO REPORT TO THE CABINET AT NEXT SUNDAY'S MEETING ON CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH U.S., INCLUDING FLOW OF ARMS. WHILE SOME WOULD REGARD SLOWDOWN AS BUREAUCRATIC DELAY, OTHERS MIGHT WELL READ IT AS RENEGING BY U.S. ON ITS COMMITMENT. THIS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE, AND ALLON WOULD FIND IT HELPFUL IF THE ARMS PIPELINE COULD IN THE MEANTIME BE UNCLOGGED. HE ASKED ME TO DO WHAT I COULD TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

2. I TOLD ALLON I ASSUMED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT PERSHING MISSILES OR OTHER SOPHISTICATED ITEMS WHICH HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE ISRAELI PACKAGE. ALLON SAID THAT MY ASSUMPTION WAS CORRECT. I THEN SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ME IF IN RELAYING HIS COMPLAINT TO WASHINGTON I COULD REPORT SOME SPECIFICS. ALLON SAID THAT EVRON WOULD SUPPLY ME WITH DETAILS.

3. WHEN EVRON GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME HE SAID THAT SINCE DINITZ HAD ALREADY PASSED THE DETAILED LIST TO AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON, THE PROBLEM HERE MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED IN TERMS OF BROAD HEADINGS RATHER THAN SPECIFIC ITEMS. I AGREED. EVRON THEN DESCRIBED THE

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HEADINGS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ITEMS ON MATMON LIST PRESENTED MANY MONTHS AGO, BUT PARTICULARLY THOSE ON WHICH DELIVERY WAS PROMISED DURING 1975.

(B) ITEMS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER PERES AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

(C) THE DELIVERY OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND RECOVERY AND BRIDGING TANKS. EVRON SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN TOLD IN WASHINGTON THAT THESE ITEMS ARE NOT NOW AVAILABLE FROM U.S. RESOURCES AND THE IDEA OF ACQUIRING THEM FROM THE GERMANS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. THE ISRAELIS HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT THE GERMANS HAVE THESE ITEMS AVAILABLE AND ARE PREPARED TO SUPPLY THEM TO THE ISRAELI PROVIDED SECRETARY SCHLESINGER GIVES THE OK TO FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER. SCHLESINGER HAD PROMISED TO DO THIS, BUT ACCORDING TO EVRON THE MESSAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN PASSED. EVRON SAID THAT THIS WAS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ITEM, AND HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD HANDLE THIS WITH THE NECESSARY DISCRETION.

(D) ITEMS WHICH THE ISRAELIS WERE TOLD ARE BEING REVIEWED BY THE NSC. ACCORDING TO EVRON, THE ISRAELIS WERE TOLD THAT THIS WAS A PURE FORMALITY, BUT APPARENTLY THE LIST REMAINS UNTENDED WITHIN THE NSC AND THE ISRAELI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT RELEASED.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION I COULD USE AS THE BASIS OF A REPLY TO THIS COMPLAINT.

TOON

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